units which have become sick in Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether these sick units have given suggestions for their rescue and for covering up of the losses incurred by them;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) whether Government of Tamil Nadu have sought the permission from the Central Government to take over these sick units; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof and the Central Government reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) a quasi judicial body, has been set up under the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provision) Act, 1985 (SICA) for determination of the measures which shall be adopted with respect to the sick industrial company. As per the provisions of SICA, 1985, large and medium scale sick industrial units are to statutorily report their sickness to the BIFR. As reported by BIFR, 76 cases were registered under Section 15 of SICA relating to the State of Tamil Nadu upto 30.4.90 Details of the same are attacned at Annexure [*See* Appendix CLIV Annexure No. 96]

The names of the sick small scale industrial units are not being centrally maintained.

(d) Textile Ministry has informed that 6 proposals have been received from the Govt. of Tamil Nadu under Section 18AA of the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act 1951 for permission to take over the same. They are:—

1. Mettur Textiles
2. Jayalakshmi Mills
3. Bhavani Mills
4. Sivamani Spg. Mills
5. Mahalakshmi Textile Mills
6. Vasantha Mills.

(e) Take over or nationalisation does not provide a lasting solution to the problem of sickness. The Government of Tamil Nadu has been advised by Ministry of Textiles that it would have no objection to the Govt. of Tamil Nadu taking over of these mills, provided their viability is first established before BIFR/ Nodal Agency and the packages for their rehabilitation, are approved by BIFR/ Nodal Agency and all concerned parties agree to the reliefs and concessions envisaged from them in such packages. The State Govt. was also advised to examine the feasibility of taking possession directly from Liquidator/ Receiver without recourse to formal takeover.

Revision in the Rates of Royalty for Coal

*380. SHRI KAHNU CHARAN LENKA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to revise the rates of royalty for different grades of coal;

(b) whether coal producing states have suggested for revision of the rates of royalty;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what steps have been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) to (d) The rates of royalty on coal were last revised w e.f. 13.2.1981. A Study Group was constituted in Nov. 1984 to consider the question of further revision of rates of royalty on coal keeping in view the impact of the proposed rates on consumers of Coal, revenue of States and other relevant factors. The study group met the representatives of the State Government and obtained their views.

Some of the State Governments such as Bihar, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa have pressed for fixation of royalty on coal on ad-valorem basis instead of

existing specific rates. The study group was of the view that fixation of royalty on ad-valorem basis, without a commitment from State Governments to refrain from levying cesses, would not be equitable as it would have a cascading effect on the price of coal paid by the consumers.

The report of the Study Group was received in 1985.

Over the years, quantum of cesses being levied by some State Governments have increased so much that royalty has become practically insignificant when compared to the amount accruing to State Government by way of cesses.

The rates of royalty on coal are not being revised now in view of the problems posed by imposition of cess/ levies on coal by some of the State Governments.

Supply of Kerosene to States

@1936. SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether each State in the country is supplied with kerosene as per its demand;

(b) if so, the quantity of kerosene demanded by each State since January, 1989 and the actual quantity supplied to each State, month-wise;

(c) the price at which kerosene is sold in each State; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to ensure that the poor people in far flung villages get kerosene according to their requirement and at Government fixed rate?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a), (b) and (d) As per the existing policy, the allocation of kerosene to various States/UTs is done on the basis of historical sales on the basis of three-blocks per year, allowing a suitable growth rate over the corresponding block of the previous year. Additional *adhoc* allocations are considered for floods, drought cyclone etc. The Central Government only makes bulk allocations to States/UTs. Responsibility for smooth functioning of the distribution system at the retail level rests with the State Governments. The figures of allocation of kerosene to various States/UTs since January 1989 are attached. [See Appendix CLIV Annexure No. 97]

(c) The Central Government fixes only ex-storage point price (Basic ceiling selling price) of kerosene which is uniform throughout the country. The basic ceiling selling price of kerosene for domestic & non-domestic use is Rs. 1956.93 and Rs. 3039.06 per K.L. respectively. The retail prices are fixed by the respective State Government and vary from State to State, and place to place even within a State, depending on transport costs, local taxes etc.

मैसर्स मैटकाम सिलिकान लिमिटेड द्वारा सौर-बैटरी का विकास

†1937. **श्री राम नरेश यादव:** क्या ऊर्जा मंत्री 1 सितम्बर, 1988 को राज्य सभा में अतारांकित प्रश्न 4439 के दिये गये उत्तर को देखेंगे और यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सौर-बैटरी के विकास के लिए मैसर्स मैटकाम सिलिकॉन लिमिटेड के पक्ष में एक अनुसंधान और विकास परियोजना को स्वीकृति दी गई है; यदि हाँ, तो क्या यह भी सच है कि उक्त परियोजना 1 फरवरी, 1990 तक पूरी नहीं हुई थी; यदि हाँ, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं;

(ख) उक्त परियोजना का क्या उद्देश्य था और क्या उस उद्देश्य को पूरा कर लिया गया है; यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(ग) क्या सरकार ने सिलिकॉन के क्षेत्र में उत्पन्न स्थिति को देखते हुए दूसरी सिलिकॉन वेफर निर्माण यूनिट को सहायता उपलब्ध कराने का निर्णय किया है; यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या क्या कारण हैं?

@Previously Unstarred Question 1095 ransferred from the 18th May, 1990

†Previously Unstarred Question 1425 ransferred from the 22nd May, 1990